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"Melville remarks (p. 348): 'They were naturally very keen-sighted, ... and their sense of hearing and smelling remarkably acute, and all the writers who have touched on this subject [27] confirm this fact.' Captain Bligh (ch. iv. p. 51) says they 'had a very quick sight.' According to Davies (p. 413), 'their senses of hearing and seeing are particularly acute, and a glance will suffice to tell them when there is an opossum in the tree.' In the Report of a Parliamentary Committee (Evidence, Colonies and Slaves), Mr. O'Connor states (p. 54) they are remarkably keen-sighted, and Mr. Hobbs (p. 50) that they smell tobacco smoke at a great distance. Backhouse (pp. 103, 104) gives the following account of their keenness of vision: 'I observed a woman looking carefully about among the grass, and inquired what she was seeking. Her companions replied, to my surprise, "A needle." ... A. Cottrell, who sat by, said, "You will see she will find it: you have no idea how keen-sighted and persevering they are;" and after some time, she picked up her needle, which was one of English manufacture, and not of large size!' This great acuteness of vision led to their possession of great powers of tracking, of which Widowson (ch. xxi. p. 189) speaks thus: 'If they [the natives] take to cattle, they are, beyond anything, quick in tracing and finding those lost. So acute is their power of discrimination, that they have been known to trace the footsteps of bushrangers over mountains and rocks, and although the individual they have been in pursuit of has walked into the sides of a

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river as if to cross it, to elude the vigilance of his pursuers, and have swam some distance down and crossed when convenient, yet nothing can deceive them. Indeed, so remarkable is their discernment, that if but the slightest piece of moss on a rock has been disturbed by footsteps, they will instantly detect it.' According to Calder (Wars, ch. ii. p. 61) Robinson, in hunting fugitive tribes, was much assisted in tracking them by friendly natives. 'When he [Robinson] came on their footmarks at last, his people--such was their acute knowledge of these faint imprints on the grass, which a European would not discern at all, that they at once pronounced them to be those of the Big River and Oyster Bay tribes united. "A female," says he, "assured me they were the Big River and Oyster Bay tribes. She knew them by their footmarks."'"